

Applicant: Bill J. Coe
Serial No. 09/879,419
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A7
Conceded

a flexible one-piece body member having a permanently looped first end and a permanently looped second end, said flexible body member having a plurality of bartack threads; and
a tab member secured to said second looped end;
wherein said body member is constructed from [relatively] high strength fibers.

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 14, 2001. In the Action, the Examiner required minor changes to the Specification and rejected claims 5, 6 and 10-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Armour. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections and offers the foregoing amendments and following remarks in support thereof.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15 and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been inserted. Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections.

The Specification has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections. Applicant respectfully submits that the two instances that the trademarks SPECTRA, VECTRAN and KEVLAR are used in the application, the trademark are capitalized and

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referred to as trademarks for a fiber material. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that no amendment to the Specification is needed.

The Claims have been amended to overcome all Section 112 rejections.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected in view of Armour. Applicant respectfully traverses such rejection. Armour fails to disclose a one-piece body member or that the first end is permanently looped. The two separate pieces that consist of Armour's first end can be releasably looped by a hook and loop fastening member. Furthermore, one would not use an easily releasable hook and loop fastening member for connecting parachute suspension lines or parachute bridle cords. The life threatening dangers and risks are readily apparent. Thus, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement that Armour could be used for such purposes. Applicant also wishes to bring to the Examiner's attention of the Federal Circuit's decision in In re Mills, 916 F.2d 680, 16 U.S.P.Q.2d 2d. 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990), which states that the Examiner must afford patentable weight to functional limitations in the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-21 under Section 102(b) or Section 103(a) based on Armour.

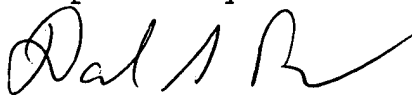
Applicant has completely responded to the Office Action dated December 17, 2001.

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Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The first page of the attached pages is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

If there are any additional charges, including extension of time, please bill our Deposit Account No. 13-1130.

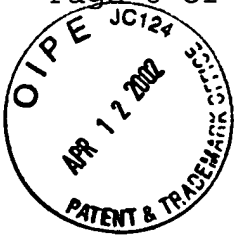
Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Paragraph beginning on Page 1, line 4:

--This application is a divisional of application Serial No. 09/492,554 filed on January 27, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,270,128.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A soft link for connecting a first member to a second member, said soft link comprising:

a one-piece flexible body member having a [first] permanently looped first end and a second end.

3. (Amended) The soft link of claim 1 wherein the second end of said body member is permanently looped.

5. (Amended) The soft link of claim 1 wherein said body member is constructed from a rope [like] material.

6. (Amended) The soft link of claim 5 wherein said rope [like] material is [relatively] high strength fibers.

10. (Amended) A soft link for connecting a first member to a second member, said soft link comprising:

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a flexible one-piece body member having a [first] permanently looped first end and a [second] permanently looped second end; and

a tab member secured to said second looped end;

wherein said body member is constructed from a rope [like] material.

11. (Amended) The soft link of claim 10 wherein said rope [like] material is relatively high strength fibers.

15. (Amended) The soft link of claim 10 wherein said rope [like] material is nylon.

17. (Amended) A soft link for connecting a first member of a parachute assembly to a second member of a parachute assembly, said soft link comprising:

a flexible one-piece body member having a [first] permanently looped first end and a [second] permanently looped second end, said flexible body member having a plurality of bartack threads; and

a tab member secured to said second looped end;

wherein said body member is constructed from [relatively] high strength fibers.